



**MAIN LIBRARY
CATAWBA COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM
115 West C Street
Newton, NC 28658**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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LIBRARY COLUMN

Poet laureate to launch giving tree at library

**By Tammy Wilson
Public Information Officer
Catawba County Library System**

NEWTON—Kathryn Stripling Byer, North Carolina's Poet Laureate, will officially light the annual Giving Tree this Thursday, Nov. 15, at the Main Library in Newton. The lighting will be held in the lobby immediately after her 7 p.m. poetry reading.

Byer's appearance is sponsored by Friends of Catawba County Library, who are also sponsoring the holiday giving tree.

Patrons may choose one or more book ornaments to "purchase" from 60 titles. Patrons will then donate funds for the library to purchase the individual book(s) to be placed within the library system in honor or in memory of loved ones.

The books range in price from about \$8 to \$30. Nearly half of the titles are for children's books. The rest are split among adult fiction and nonfiction titles and may be placed at any of seven county library locations.

Byer was appointed by Gov. Mike Easley as poet laureate two years ago. The poet laureate program, sponsored by the State of North Carolina and the N.C. Arts Council, honors outstanding writers who serve to promote a love of poetry and outstanding works by North Carolina authors.

Byer's books include *Catching Light* (2002); *Black Shawl* (1998); *Wildwood Flower* (1992) and *The Girl in the Midst of the Harvest* (1986). Her work has appeared in noted literary

journals and anthologies. She has received writing fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the N.C. Arts Council. She is currently poet-in-residence at Western Carolina University.

Catawba County Friends of the Library is a 501c (3) nonprofit organization that serves as a community liaison and support resource for the Catawba County Library System.

COMING EVENTS

Main Library, 465-8664

- Preschool story time, each Thursday at 10 a.m.
- Teen Advisory Board, 4 p.m. Nov. 14
- Poet laureate Kathryn Stripling Byer, 7 p.m. Nov. 15

Conover Branch, 466-5108

- Children's Book Week story time, 4 p.m. Nov. 14
- Intro to Computers, 10 a.m. Nov. 20

Claremont Branch, 459-9311

- Friends of Library 6 p.m. Nov. 27

Maiden Branch, 428-2712

- Toddler stories 9:30 a.m. & preschool 10 Wednesdays.
- Family story time for school-age 3:30 p.m. Nov. 15

St. Stephens Branch, 256-3030

- Preschool/toddler story time 10 a.m. Thursdays
- Possom Hollar String Band 7 p.m. Nov. 20
- Music Makers, 4:30 p.m. Nov. 29, preschool

Sherrills Ford Branch, 478-2729

- Toddler/preschool stories Wednesdays, 10 a.m.
- Toddler/preschool music time, 10 a.m. Thursdays
- Friends of Library 7 p.m. Nov. 20

Southwest Branch, 294-2343

- Toddler/preschool story time, 10 a.m. Thursdays

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